



**Air Force Materiel  
Command**

**Financial Analyst of the Year  
Civilian, GS-10 and below**

**Saundra Coveal**

**Air Force  
Research Laboratory  
Space Vehicles Directorate**



**Air Force  
Research Laboratory  
Space Vehicles  
Directorate**

**Noncommissioned  
Officer of the Quarter**

**Staff Sgt.  
Benjiman Bythewood**

# Sandia National Laboratories: 'It's time to play Quizbowl!'

**BY JENNIFER E. WEST**

Nucleus staff writer

Employees from Sandia National Laboratories meet to play their own version of a buzzer trivia game, "Quizbowl."

Similar to trademarked trivia games, the game uses clues to describe a person or thing that players must guess. Portable buzzers allow one player to be first at offering a guess.

Jason Zuffranieri, one of the primary organizers of the sessions, said his first contact with the game was in high school. But the game need not be based on academic topics only, like the games played nationwide in schools.

Although the Sandia group now uses academia and general knowledge trivia clues, he said his group is willing to play using any topics interesting the players from "The Simpsons" television program to pop culture and music to movies if the questions are available to the group.

Quizbowl sessions are every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., in the conference room of the Schiff Auditorium. Games are open to everyone with valid access to Kirtland AFB and are not limited to laboratory employees.

Mr. Zuffranieri explained that two teams of an indefinite number of players are each given a buzzer. With a reader using a laptop computer giving descriptions of a thing or a person, the players attempt to guess what is being described.

The reader gives facts that are at first obscure but become more identifiable as the game progresses when no one guesses the person or thing.

When a player has a guess for the answer, that player can press the team's buzzer, preventing the other team from buzzing at that point. If the player has a correct answer, the team wins points and a bonus question for the whole team.

If the player's guess is incorrect, his team loses points and the other team's players can use clues revealed by the losing team to make a guess.

Individuals must work alone in the initial stages of the game, but all members on a team can participate in guessing bonus questions.

"Quizbowl varies from just about every other trivia game in that players and teams are rewarded for knowing



Photo by Todd Berenger

**2nd Lt. Gregory Brault is ready to buzz in to give a response during a recent game of Quizbowl.**

more about something than the other squad," Mr. Zuffranieri said.

"Most games seem to have questions with everyone hearing everything and then giving an answer. But Quizbowl is set up so that if you recognize an obscure fact about something, you don't have to wait around until the easy clue. You can "buzz" immediately and get the points for your side," he continued.

Playing some version of Quizbowl since high school, the now-23-year-old 2nd Lt. Greg Brault said he plays because "it's a fun thing to do...and I missed exercising the trivia knowledge. It's fun and competitive."

The Sandia Quizbowl group's sessions aren't hardcore nor too difficult for the average person to join.

"It's open, everyone's friendly," added Lieutenant Brault, an electrical engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate.

"Without a doubt, the sessions we hold are very casual and (I'm the only one) with any extensive "QB" experience," Mr. Zuffranieri added. "We're not at such a high level of competition

that we care an incredible amount about who wins each game... there is plenty of laughing and goofing off...and everyone that comes seems to have a pretty good attitude."

Lieutenant Brault said the group now is small, with five to six regular weekly players, including one female and a diverse age range. But more players and, even spectators who might become players, are encouraged to visit a game session.

To learn more about Quizbowl, just attend a session. Or, you can contact Mr. Zuffranieri at 248-8576 or [jvzuffr@sandia.gov](mailto:jvzuffr@sandia.gov). Until very recently, the sessions were on Thursday. But to accommodate players' workshifts, the sessions now meet each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in The Schiff Auditorium.

The Schiff Auditorium, open to non-Sandia employees, is reached by traveling on Hardin, east from Wyoming Boulevard, and turning north onto 9th Street. The first right turn is N Avenue and the auditorium in Building 825 is to the left. The conference room inside the auditorium is to the left past double doors.



# 377th Air Base Wing picks quarter's top performers

Civilian Category I	Airman of the Quarter
<div>Delia Eckerman</div>	<div>Senior Airman Lona Conrad</div>
377th Services Squadron No photo available	377th Medical Operations Squadron



**Noncommissioned  
Officer of the Quarter**  
**Staff Sgt. Lawrence Carter**  
377th Medical  
Support Squadron



**Senior  
Noncommissioned  
Officer of the Quarter**  
**Master Sgt. Peter Housh**  
377th Security  
Forces Squadron



Photo by John Brownlee

**Heavy metal**  
Dwarfing the crane raising it, a 30-ton autoclave gets a lift over a retaining wall to its new home at Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate Space Structures Laboratory. Big enough to house a small car, the 12-foot by 18-foot kiln-like oven will be used to heat-cure resins in all types of composite carbon-fiber structures, including extremely lightweight fuel tanks and missile payload fairings protecting sensitive satellite payloads during launch. Weighing in at 30 tons, the lab's autoclave is one of the largest in the Air Force and cost about a half-million dollars.



**Company Grade  
Officer of the Quarter**  
**2nd Lt. David Steddenbenz**  
377th Security Forces  
Squadron



**Civilian Category II**  
**Leigh Ann Jones**  
377th Aerospace  
Medicine Squadron



**Civilian Category III**  
**Jesus Sanchez, Jr**  
377th Logistics  
Readiness Squadron



**Civilian Category IV**  
**Christina Krisinger**  
377th Medical Operations  
Squadron